

▪ **Water Quality Protection**

*Description:* This award acknowledges a singular activity or series of activities that has prevented the loss of or further protected water quality in a watershed, waterbody, wetland or other aquatic habitat.

Criteria	General Focus	Max. Points
Environmental Need	Was a significant and pressing water quality issue addressed? Was an emerging or long-standing water quality issue tackled?	10
Initiative	What was the impetus and driving force for the activity? Was the activity unprecedented or did it follow/expand upon another endeavor?	10
Innovation	Was a unique paradigm or approach employed? Were resources used in a distinctly efficient or creative manner?	10
Immediacy	Were immediate, near future or distant environmental benefits sought?	10
Scope of Impact	Was a narrow or broad range of water quality benefits sought? Was the geographic focus narrowly or broadly defined? What was accomplished?	20
Water Quality Benefits	How has water quality and the environment been helped by the activity?	25
Sustainability	How long can the activity continue? How long will the water quality benefits last?	15
Total		100